

To Whom It May Concern:

Maxim and I worked together on a number of projects from 2014 to the present.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Maxim, and came to know him as a truly valuable asset to any team. He is independent, active researcher and incredibly hard-working. Beyond that, he is an impressive problem solver who is always able to address complex issues with strategy and confidence. Maxim is inspired by challenges, and never intimidated by them.

His knowledge of multivalent batteries and expertise in computational chemistry was a huge advantage to our entire group. He put this skillset to work in order to increase the quality of our papers. I know that Maxim was a huge piece of our success.

Along with his talent, Maxim has always been an absolute joy to work with. He is a true team player, and always manages to foster positive discussions. Such qualities enable him to successfully cooperate at present with scientists from California Polytechnic State University (USA), CELLS ALBA (Spain), New Mexico State University (USA). I appreciated his skills when I was working on a joint article on  $TiS_3$  magnesium cathode. His responsibility was to choose the topic of the study and with it he would manage fairly confidently. The topic of the article turned out to be really fresh and attracted the attention of the editor and reviewers. When I was working on his manuscript, from my side a fairly small amount of changes was proposed. The article was mature enough. He performed his work professionally enough: the choice of methods was appropriate. As a result, a lot of important information was obtained: the stability of this material during charge-discharge, structural changes, discharge curves and electronic structure. The real adornment of the article was obtaining an unusual result: under certain conditions, the layers of material slide to form a tunnel-like channel with a high mobility of magnesium in it. The activation energy of ionic conductivity in this channel turned out to be substantially lower than that of the known analogs. The latter result is very important, since it is the mobility of magnesium that constitutes a limiting factor and is now a vital problem for scientists.

Without a doubt, I confidently recommend Maxim to join your team. As a dedicated and knowledgeable employee and an all-around great person, I know that he will be a beneficial addition to your organization. I recommend him most highly.

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05.10.2017